

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KADUNA 00603 261350Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 NIC-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 059465

R 261312Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL KADUNA

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

SECSTATE WASHDC 2808

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NI

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH J.S. TARKA

REF: (A) KADUNA 596

(B) KADUNA 598

1. IN COURSE OF TWO HOUR CONVERSATION WITH TARKA DURING WHICH HE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS IN U.S. (REF. B) HE TALKED FREELY ABOUT NIGERIAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. FOLLOWING ITEMS SEEMED WORTHY OF IMMEDIATE NOTE. FULL MEMCON WILL BE POUCHED.

2. TARKA SAID AWOLOW, THE MILITARY ATTACHES TO U.S. AND MOSCOW AND OTHERS WERE MEETING IN LONDON TO DISCUSS WAYS FMG COULD BE BROUGHT DOWN. TARKA SAID GOWON IS TOO SOFT -- "A TAFAWA BELEWA IN UNIFORM" AND WEAKNESS AND VISION OF GOVERNMENT IS BEING EXPLOITED.

3. TARKA FEELS FURTHER CORRUPTION EXPOSES NOT IN INTEREST OF COUNTRY BECAUSE ONE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE IT WILL END. WITHOUT IMPLYING THAT GOWON IS VULNERABLE, HE VOICED CONCERN THAT CHARGES MIGHT BE BROUGHT AGAINST EVEN GOWON IF MOVEMENT STARTS SNOWBALLING. FOR THIS REASON HE DOES NOT FAVOR AKU PURSUING
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ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GOMWALK (REF. A). HOWEVER, TARKA HAS BEEN

ADVISED AND INTENDS TO REMAIN COMPLETELY ALLOF, SUPPORTING NEITHER GOMWALK OR AKU. HE SAID HE TRIED TO DISSUADE AKU BUT AKU WOULD NOT LISTEN. TARKA SEEMS TO FEAR SUCCESSION OF SCANDALS COULD CAUSE OVERTHROW OF GOWON, FORMATION OF NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND DELAY OF RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE.

4. COMMENT: THERE MAY BE SOME BASIS FOR TARKA'S FEAR OF IMPENDING RASH OF SCANDALS. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT DAILY TIMES HAS ACCUMULATED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGING EVIDENCE ABOUT A NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN LAGOS, INCLUDING ENAHORO, WHICH THE DAILY TIMES IS PLANNING TO PUBLISH WHEN AFFIDAVITS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED.
TRAIL

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Message Attributes

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